

PROJECT TITLE : Pilot Plant Operations

PERIOD COVERED : March 24th - April 30th

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1. EQUIPMENT

1.1. Pasteurization

During the revision and cleaning of the equipment before starting the first extended trial period, a deformation of a tube of the heat exchanger for pasteurization was detected. This is probably due to the vacuum caused by condensation of steam after a sterilization of the exchanger. The consequences of this incident are however not too serious, the pasteurization being still working well.

1.2. Centrifugation

The motor of the centrifuge broke down on April 21st. This type of motor is not available in Switzerland and we had to order it from Alfa-Laval in Sweden. The motor has been sent by Air Freight and should arrive in Neuchâtel on May 2nd. Until then the NINOMASS will not be removed from the extract.

2. LABORATORY

2.1. Due to the increased number of analyses to be carried out a second lab technician will be hired.

2.2. The borrowed turbidity meter from Eppendorf for measuring optical density of the fermented extract did not give satisfactory results. Therefore it was returned to the supplier and another one from Drott, borrowed by Ruegg, is now being examined.

2.3. The lactic acid in the extract can now be determined in our lab using the Beckman Spectrophotometer.

2.4. A meeting took place on April 2nd to discuss the method of Hot Water Solubles determination. Messrs Lopes and Widmer from Q.C. will contact Richmond to get more details about the PM USA method. We have already used this method in the pilot plant lab.

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3. MISCELLANEOUS

A safety shower combined with an eye wash fountain was installed.

PROCESS DEVELOPMENT



C. Ruf

May 7th, 1980  
CLR/sde

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